

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action dated December 9, 2010.

Claims 10 and 65 are amended. Claims 10-12 and 53-66 remain pending in this application.

Formal Request for Telephonic Interview

If the present claim amendments do not result in allowance of all claims, then Applicant formally requests a telephonic interview with the Examiner and Applicant's representative, Peter C. Maki, to help expedite examination.

The Rejection of Claims Under § 103

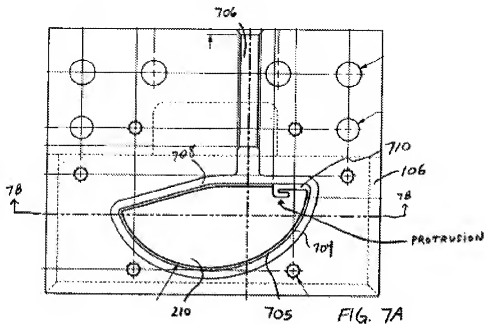
Claims 10, 12, 64, and 65 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsubota (U.S. Patent No. 5,361,660) in view of Dunwoody et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,678,439; hereinafter "Dunwoody").

Claims 10, 12, and 64

Applicant has amended claim 10 to better describe the subject matter recited in the claim. Applicant submits that claim 10 is not obvious in view of the cited references since, even if combined, the combination does not include or suggest each limitation recited in the claim. For instance, Applicant cannot find in the cited combination: wherein the ridge does not extend around the entire periphery of the upper end of the die hole such that the ridge includes an opening to a protrusion extending into an interior of the die hole so as to direct the lubricant from the lubrication reservoir area behind the ridge to the protrusion extending into the interior of the die hole at the opening in the ridge; and actuating the punch to punch an electrode layer out of the sheet, wherein the location of the sheet at the ridge opening at the protrusion extending into the interior of the die hole receives more lubricant than sheet locations around the rest of the periphery not at the ridge opening, as recited in claim 10.

Neither cited reference includes or suggests the subject matter of directing lubricant to a protrusion extending into the interior of a die hole. Figure 7A of the present application is shown

below for reference of an example of such subject matter.



Claims 12 and 64 include each limitation of their parent claim and are therefore also not obvious in view of the cited references. Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 65

Claim 65 has been amended in a similar manner as claim 10 discussed above. For the reasons given above, Applicant submits that claim 65 is not obvious in view of the cited combination. Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 11 and 66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsubota in view of Dunwoody as applied to claims 10 and 65 above, and further in view of Klint et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,288,715; hereinafter “Klint”).

Claims 11 and 66 include each limitation of their respective parent claims and are not obvious in view of the cited references since the secondary reference does not overcome the deficiencies of the primary references discussed above. Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Claim 57 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsubota in view of Dunwoody as applied to claim 10, and further in view of 3M.

Claim 57 includes each limitation of its parent claim and is not obvious in view of the cited references since the secondary reference does not overcome the deficiencies of the primary references discussed above. Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's representative at (612) 359-3267 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or deficiencies, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 
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